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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,707	08/25/2003	Motoharu Kurosawa	42530-5200	2726
21611	7590	03/22/2006	EXAMINER	
SNELL & WILMER LLP 600 ANTON BOULEVARD SUITE 1400 COSTA MESA, CA 92626			SHAPIRO, JEFFERY A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3653	

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/647,707	Applicant(s) KUROSAWA, MOTOHARU	
	Examiner Jeffrey A. Shapiro	Art Unit 3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/26/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: **see element 9, paragraphs 23 and 24**. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: in paragraph 21, lines 1 and 3, the electric motor (5) is described as being part of figure 1. However, figure 1 does not illustrate said motor. Also, it appears the word "and" should be "an" in line 3.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3653

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 1-14 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirano (US 5,924,919) in view of Raterman et al (US Re. 34,934).

Regarding **Claims 1, 7**, Hirano discloses a storage bowl (32) having an upper section and a lower section, as shown in figure 1. As illustrated in figure 3, Hirano further discloses a rotating disk (24) with apertures (C2). Figure 2 illustrates base plate (32) and motor (42).

Regarding **Claim 5**, note that Hirano discloses left and right side wall members that are vertical.

Regarding **Claims 6 and 21**, Hirano discloses a center agitating portion as shown in figure 5. Note the center cross-section of disk (24) is shaped somewhat conically and can be construed as agitating the tokens above it to move towards the holes (46, 47).

Further regarding **Claims 7 and 14**, Hirano discloses a through hole having hollow that can be construed as an offset cone-shaped hollow.

Regarding **Claim 8**, Hirano discloses a gear reduction unit in the form of deceleration unit (43).

Regarding **Claims 12 and 13**, Hirano discloses a rotating disk at an angle to the horizontal while the upper-most opening of the storing member is horizontal. See Hirano, figure 1. Note also that it appears that the angle the disk resides at is approximately 30 degrees.

Regarding **Claims 16-18**, note that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have made any of the parts of Hirano's device from synthetic resin. Note in particular the disclosure in col. 2, lines 4-7 that describes using resin material for a rotary disk.

Hirano does not expressly disclose, but Raterman discloses as described in **Claims 1, 7, 9**, a storing bowl (102), said storing bowl having an upper section and a lower section, said lower section having a convex section, as illustrated in figure 4. Raterman further discloses a rotating disk (106), a motor (402), base plate (103). See figure 9 of Raterman.

Raterman further discloses, with regards to **Claims 2 and 20**, a convex section with a circular lower opening located over the outer edge of the disk, a conically tapered section extending upwards from the circular lower opening, and an enlarging section horn-like in shape which extends upwards from the conically tapered section, the enlarging section being located above the conically tapered section, and an apex formed at the intersection of the conically tapered and enlarging sections. See figure 4 of Raterman.

Regarding **Claims 3, 4, 10 or 11**, note that regardless of the dimensioned being measured in terms of the diameter of a token, since the diameter of a token will depend on the token used, Raterman's apex and cone-shaped upper and lower portions can be construed as meeting the limitations of these claims. For example, Raterman's apex can be construed to be located above the rotor (106) about the diameter of a token, since the diameter of a token would depend upon the token used.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used Raterman's enlarging and conically tapered sections with apex formed at the junction thereof in Hirano's coin dispenser just above Hirano's disk.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to keep coins centered about the rotatable disk, as one ordinarily skilled in the art would have found apparent from Raterman's figure 4.

5. Claim 15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirano (US 5,924,919) in view of Raterman et al (US Re. 34,934) and further in view of Kurosawa et al (US 6,569,006 B1). Hirano discloses the system described above. Hirano does not expressly disclose the existence of the bridging phenomena discussed in Applicant's **Claims 15 and 19**. Kurosawa abstract discloses at lines 3 and 4, that the hopper prevents bridging. It is considered obvious that Hirano's hopper would exhibit such bridging.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey A. Shapiro whose telephone number is (571)272-6943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene O. Crawford can be reached on (571)272-6911. The fax phone

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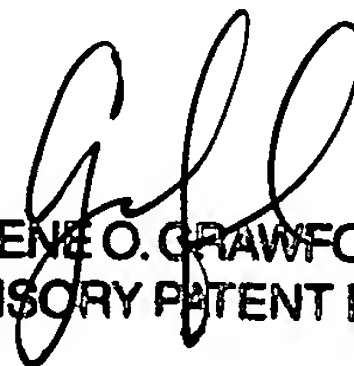
number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jeffrey A. Shapiro
Examiner
Art Unit 3653

March 19, 2006



GENE O. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER